UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,970	02/08/2005	Tsutomu Nakamura	Q85753	3988

23373 7590 08/29/2008

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER	
MAKI, STEVEN D	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1791	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
08/29/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action Attachment

new issues

The new issues are:

(1) amending claim 1 to recite "a discontinuous main groove component having an angle of 0^{o} with respect to the circumferential direction" and "wherein in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main component is not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion";

(2) amending claim 8 to recite "a discontinuous main groove component C having an angle of 0 with respect to the circumferential direction" and "wherein in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main component is not less than 15% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion";

(3) canceling claim 12 *without* changing dependency of claim 13; and

(4) amending claim 8 to recite "discontinuous main groove component C having an angle of 0 with respect to the circumferential direction" *without* canceling claim 15 which recites "the main groove component C is a groove other than the tilting main groove A and the tilting main groove B, and wherein the main groove component C is at least one linear groove or zigzag groove in the circumferential direction, disposed in the tread center region".

issue of new matter

The issue of new matter is amending claim 8 to recite "discontinuous main groove component C having an angle of 0 with respect to the circumferential direction" *without* canceling claim 15 which recites "the main groove component C is a groove other than the tilting main groove A and the tilting main groove B, and wherein the main groove component C is at least one linear groove or zigzag groove in the circumferential direction, disposed in the tread center region".

remarks

Applicant argues that Japan 105 does not teach grooves at 0 degree angle. Examiner notes that Japan 105 teaches a straight continuous circumferential groove C at the center of the tread.

With respect to claim 3 and Nakawgawa et al, applicant argues that the Examiner fails to allege where these claimed features are taught and suggested. Applicant is incorrect. As explained on page 7 of the final office action dated 4-17-08, the claimed "main groove component oriented at an angle of 0-20 degrees" reads on the circumferential groove 4, which Nakagawa et al teaches may extend zigzag or straight (col. 3 lines 33-36). A circumferential groove in a tread center portion has a length of 100% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion. Claim 3 requires a length of at least 50%. The value 100% falls within the claimed range of at least 50%. It is noted that claim 3 reads on the continuous circumferential groove shown in figure 4 and figure 9 of applicant's disclosure.

Applicant asserts that the cited art fails to teach or suggest that, in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main component is not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion. Applicant is incorrect. With respect to length not less than 50%, Nakagawa et al teaches a continuous circumferential groove 4 (length of 100%) and Japan 105 teaches a continuous circumferential groove C (length of 100%). It is again noted that claim 3 reads on the continuous circumferential groove shown in figure 4 and figure 9 of applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven D. Maki whose telephone number is (571) 272-1221. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven D. Maki/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791

Steven D. Maki
August 27, 2008